

REMARKS

Claims 17-30 and 32-43 are pending in the application.

The Office rejected claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 30 has been amended now to depend from pending claim 17.

Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice.

The Office rejected claims 17-29 and 32-44 under 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard 4,884,071.

Pending independent claims 17 and 32 have been amended now to add the limitation that the at least two coupled transmission devices are inductive, and to remove the term 'electrically' from the phrase 'electrically coupled'.

Howard '071 does not disclose spacing a series of inductive devices to form a 'tuned' system in this manner, and therefore does not disclose the present invention. In fact, Howard emphasizes that Hall Effect sensors are distinct from inductive devices. Applicants believe, therefore, that Howard teaches away from the inductive devices as described in the present specification. See column 8 lines 38-46 of Howard '071.

Applicants believe, therefore that claims 17 and 32 as amended are now allowable, and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Pending dependent claims 18-29 and 33-44 now depend from allowable base claims, and Applicants believe these claims are now also allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims as well.

Claim 44 has been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants believe that this amendment now puts this application in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this amendment be entered and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at 832-681-8623.

Respectfully submitted,



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